



Compost Works: Erosion Control

Compost Works

Regency Commerical Services chose compost for a project at a commercial building in West Des Moines. The new shopping center parking lot project included basin islands for water retention and added an attractive, natural look to the parking lot. With the goal of quickly and inexpensively establishing cover on parking lot medians, Regency contacted Des Moines erosion control contractor Soil Tek.

The Situation

- ◆ Lack of vegetation in new parking lot medians
- ◆ Concerns about urban runoff as well as aesthetics of the highly visible area

The Problems

- ◆ Odd shaped, rounded medians make it difficult to apply sod without time-intensive custom cutting
- ◆ Increased loss of soil in medians during rain events
- ◆ Less attractive parking area

The Answer

- ◆ Compost

Application

- ◆ Half-inch screened Premium Turf Gold compost from Metro Waste Authority
- ◆ Two-inch layer of seeded compost was blown onto the unirrigated areas
- ◆ Area was prepared by smoothing and leveling the surface as in traditional sod installation preparation

Results

- ◆ Improved the soil retention
- ◆ Provided prompt groundcover
- ◆ Decreased weed growth
- ◆ Improved parking lot appearance
- ◆ Despite initial delay in germination, proper watering provided green turf within 2-3 days



Full establishment of cover, without installing irrigation, was achieved in only seven months in parking lot medians at a 22nd St. shopping center



The turf and shrubs provide a natural setting along the east side of the shopping center

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The compost was definitely more cost effective and provided a really good cover. I'm looking forward to using it on other projects.”

Jason Ceretti, Regency Commercial

Compost Works For:

Soil Incorporant

- Turf establishment
- Garden bed preparation
- Reclamation/remediation
- Nursery production
- Roadside vegetation

Surface Applied

- Garden bed mulch
- Erosion control media

Turf Topdressing

Manufactured Topsoil

Growing Media Component

- Container/potting substrates
- Landscape (e.g. rooftop, raised planters)
- Backfill mixes (tree and shrub plantings)
- Golf course (e.g. tee, green, divot mixes)

Physical Improvement

- Improves soil structure
- Moisture management

Chemical Balance

- Modifies and stabilizes pH
- Increases cation exchange capacity

Biological Impact

- Supplies nutrients and soil biota
- Suppresses plant diseases

Other Benefits

- Binds/degrades contaminants
- Binds nutrients

Project Date:
Sept. 2003

Organization:
Regency Commercial

Location:
1431 22nd St
West Des Moines

Application Method:
Blown 2" layer
of compost and seed

Contact:
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